

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The final Office Action dated January 24, 2008 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 1, 3 and 5-10 are rejected by the Examiner.

With this response, claim 1 has been amended. No new material has been added.

Accordingly, claims 1, 3 and 5-15 are currently pending, of which claims 11-15 are withdrawn from consideration in this application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claim 1 is objected to because of informalities.

Claims 1, 3 and 5-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent No. JP06-114,315 (hereinafter "Ishida").

Claims 1, 3 and 5-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishida in view of Stepper Motor System Basics, published at www.ams2000.com on 8/7/2000.

Claim 1 has been amended to address the Examiner's objection, and Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection in light of this amendment.

Applicants respectfully submit that Ishida does not anticipate claims 1, 3 and 5-10 because it does not teach each and every element as set forth in the claims. "A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." Moreover, "The elements must be arranged as required by the claim." MPEP § 2131.

On pages 2-3 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that Ishida discloses various features of the present invention.

However, applicants submit that Ishida does not disclose at least, for example, “a first sensor in the body for detecting whether the nozzle of the syringe is in contact with the substrate; and a main unit for controlling the vertical driving stepping motor in response to an output from the second sensor to obtain a desired gap distance between the nozzle and the substrate, wherein the first sensor includes magnetic sensor sending an electric signal to the main unit that changes as the body is lowered by the vertical driving stepping motor toward the table and wherein the main unit recognizes an absence of change in the electrical signal as the nozzle is in contact with the substrate and controls the vertical driving stepping motor to stop the lowering of the body” as recited in claim 1.

That is, the present invention discloses that when the nozzle is in contact with the substrate, the lowering of the body stops so that the electric signal stops changing. The control unit recognizes an absence of change in the electric signal as the nozzle being in contact with the substrate. When the control unit recognizes that lowering of the body has stopped, the control unit stops the vertical driving stepping motor. See also paragraph 0043 of the original description.

Because Ishida does not teach each and every element of claim 1, Ishida does not anticipate claim 1. Furthermore, Ishida does not anticipate claims 3 and 5-10 by virtue of their dependency from claim 1.

Moreover, the article Stepper Motor Basics fails to cure the deficiencies of Ishida discussed above, so claims 1, 3 and 5-10 are allowable over Ishida and the article Stepper Motor Basics either singly or in combination. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submits that claim 1 and claims 3 and 5-10, which depend from claim 1, are allowable over the cited references.

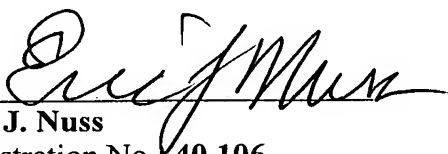
Applicants believe the foregoing amendments and remarks place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: 22 April 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Eric J. Nuss
Registration No.: **40,106**
McKENNA LONG & ALDRIDGE LLP
1900 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 496-7500
Attorneys for Applicant